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***ARIDON:***  
***The International Journal of Urhobo Studies***



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## Editors' Note

We can trace back serious discussion of the necessity for this journal to January 4, 2003 when both of us traveled with the late Professor Omafume Onoge to Bori, Rivers State, to show solidarity to the Ogoni people on Ogoni Day. It was a very memorable journey in which the three of us reminisced about our respective experiences as youths in Urhobo land. We discovered how things have so changed and yet there is no written record of anything for the young ones of today, scholars, students, and the general public to read. We agreed that a people's experience not written down has limitations that only books and journals can fill. Since then, both of us have strategized on bringing to fruition a journal of Urhobo Studies.

The first practical step we took was to set up the Urhobo Studies Association (USA) at Delta State University, Abraka, in 2003. The association's activities were coordinated by Professor Rose Oro Aziza and Professor Aguonorobo Eruvbetine of the University of Lagos, then on sabbatical leave at the Department of English and Literary Studies, Abraka. The association also organised seminars on iconic Urhobo events and workshops to produce Urhobo Language Syllabi and primers for primary and secondary school examinations.

While various aspects of the Urhobo experience are being studied for sometime now, there has been no intellectual vehicle in place. With a programme in Urhobo language in the Department of Languages and Linguistics at Delta State University, Abraka, and scholars worldwide studying writers and other intellectuals of Urhobo background, **Aridon: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies** becomes a ready avenue for researchers, scholars, students, and the reading public to express and discuss their views.

**Aridon: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies** publishes well-researched and original papers on all aspects of Urhobo Studies: Language and Literature Studies, Linguistics, Theatre and Media Arts, Peace Studies, Conflict Studies, Niger Delta Studies, Gender Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Law, Education, Sciences, Engineering, Technology, Economics, Environment, History, Politics, Diasporic Studies, Music, Fine Arts, Popular and Folk Cultures, Urhobo in Nollywood, Fashion, Food, Agriculture and Agronomy, etc. The journal strives for an interdisciplinary approach to research and scholarship which will create the platform for a common ground for scholarship and research on Urhobo and the world with Urhobo as the foundation for such intellectual inquiries. Comparative studies on Urhobo and other groups, especially the broader Pan-Edo world, are also considered for publication.

This issue is just the beginning of what we expect to be an ongoing and reliable and regular journal; hence we have used Bruce Onobrakpeya's art work *Arinrinrin* (Long Life) as the journal's logo. Of course, Aridon is the god of memory in Urhobo. We believe in the power of memory and this journal will preserve our individual and collective knowledge as a beacon of light to learn from. We need support of all to sustain this noble project.

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***ARIDON: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies***

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*ARIDON: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies* is intended as an authoritative organ of opinion, studies, research, and creative works on a wide range of disciplines about the Urhobo people and experience. Although it has special interest in Urhobo Studies, *ARIDON* will also publish articles on Pan-Edo issues or other relevant and comparative experiences as the Urhobo. Submissions should follow the MLA Style Sheet.

Art cover, *Arinrinrin* (Long Life) by Bruce Onobrakpeya.

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### Notes on Contributors